



## MICHIGAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

[www.DOMOA.org](http://www.DOMOA.org)

February 15, 2016

The Honorable Mike Shirkey  
Michigan State Senate  
Chair, Senate Health Policy Committee  
320 Farnum Building  
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Chairman Shirkey,

As CEO and Executive Director of the Michigan Osteopathic Association (MOA), I am writing on behalf of the over 8,000 osteopathic physicians and medical students in the state of Michigan. MOA seeks to promote quality patient care in the practice of osteopathic medicine and Michigan. With this mission in mind, MOA seeks to express support for HB 4812 and concern for HB 4812 S-1 regarding biologic and biosimilar medications.

Biologic medications are complex medications made out of living cells. Biosimilars are made to be similar to their biologic counterpart, however because of their complexity it is impossible to make an exact copy of the originator biologic medication. The Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has created two categories, biosimilars and interchangeable biosimilars.

We believe HB 4812 meets the FDA's recommendations and the goals of MOA to provide quality care. This legislation allows for the substitution of only interchangeable biosimilars and requires pharmacists to communicate with doctors after making biologic medication substitutions. It is critical, and commonsense, for doctors to have a complete patient record when making health care decisions.

It is because of this stance that MOA is extremely concerned about possible passage of HB 4812 S-1. This bill sets a dangerous precedent by going against the FDA's guidelines for biosimilar substitution. In addition to allowing these irresponsible substitutions, it cuts doctors out of the conversation.

I urge you to pass HB 4812 as passed in the House of Representatives, Michigan patients deserve the highest quality of care.

Sincerely,

Kris Nicholoff

CEO/Executive Director

Michigan Osteopathic Association